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Patrick Rafter

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PHILIPS MEDICAL SYSTEMS  
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS  
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EXAMINER

ROZANSKI, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3768

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

The drawings were received on 5/5/08. These drawings are accepted.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Demers et al (US PUB 2003/0195421 –cited by Applicant) in view of Rafter et al (US 6,503,203 –cited by Applicant).

Demers et al disclose an ultrasound imaging system 100 including a probe 110, transducer 112 for transmitting energy in the form of a beam (para [0017]). Steering of the beam to scan different parts of an object is controlled by central controller 120, which responds to commands from a user entered via a user interface 119 or it may be programmed to steer the beam automatically in a predetermined manner (para [0017]). Through the user interface 119, an operator can adjust the orientation of the slices to visualize spatial relationships of tissue features (para [0019]). System controller 120 commands a transmit frequency control 117 is used to transmit a desired frequency band, causing the transducer to transmit ultrasonic waves in one of a plurality of selected frequency bands, which are stored and are responsive to input from the

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system controller 120 (para [0016]). Echo signals are detected and processed by a B mode processor 137, a contrast signal detector 128 for contrast agent image processing, or a Doppler processor 130 (para [0018]).

However, Demers et al do not specifically disclose initiating acquisition of a sequence of images in the previously stored succession of different plane orientations. Rafter et al teach of an automated ultrasound system including control circuitry that sequentially adjusts the images settings so as to cause the transmit and receive circuitry to have a sequence of imaging configurations during an ultrasound imaging study. A memory is used to store imaging configurations describing the operation of the ultrasound imaging system (col 6, lines 35-53; col 7, lines 4-30). Rafter et al also teach of infusing the body with a contrast agent (see Abstract) and acquisition of a heart cycle waveform of the heart via ECG interface 140 (figure 1). It would have been obvious to the skilled artisan to modify Demers et al, as taught by Rafter et al, in order to provide pre-stored imaging configurations that make the procedure more efficient.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In addition, the previous 112 rejection is withdrawn in view of the submission of replacement drawings.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rozanski whose telephone number is 571-272-1648. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric F Winakur/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3768

MR